DC

7

THE FLASH

SPURRIER
PÉREZ
DODGSON

LEFT FOR DEAD

13+ TEEN

DAWN OF DC

Nia Nal is more powerful than she could ever DREAM of...

bad dream

A DREAMER STORY

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The never-before-told origin story of Dreamer, the first trans superhero to appear on TV!

A New Graphic Novel for Young Adults

APRIL

Written by
NICOLE MAINES

Art by
RYE HICKMAN

RUN.

STAY CLOSE TO ME-- DON'T LOOK BACK-- and by all the lights of love and life--

--KEEP RUNNING!

I'M-- I'M **SORRY,** MAX, I **CAN'T.** I'm so tired.

W-WITHOUT THE **SPEED FORCE,** I-- I'M JUST--

FORGET THE SPEED FORCE, **IMPULSE!**

SO WHAT IF IT DOESN'T WORK HERE? WE NEED ONLY STAY TRUE TO OUR **COMPASSION** AND **CURIOSITY.**

THE **UNIVERSE** WILL PROVIDE THE REST.

YyYyeah, well... n-no **offense,** Max-- S-STILL KINDA **NEW** TO THIS WHOLE **HOLISTIC WISDOM** SHTICK, SO TAKE THIS WITH A GRAIN OF SALT-- BUT, uhm...

...I DON'T THINK THE UNIVERSE IS ***LISTENING*** RIGHT NOW.

Please, Max... G-go on without me. It's my own fault I'm stuck here.

I WAS TRYING TO GET TO ***TIMEPOINT,*** BUT-- I-I GOT DISTRACTED-- like ***always.*** I GOT ***LOST,*** AND--

--AND ENDED UP ***HERE*** IN ***ICKTO.*** WHERE YOU FOUND ***ME.***

...WHICH WAS YOUR ***AIM*** IN THE FIRST PLACE, NO? THE UNIVERSE PROVIDES.

"ICKTO"? I DIDN'T KNOW THIS HELLHOLE HAD A ***NAME.***

GALLOWS HUMOR. SOME OF THE ***OTHER*** SPEEDSTERS TOLD ME, BEFORE--

--Ah--

Mm. ***THAT.***

--BEFORE THEIR ***TEMPORAL ENERGY*** WAS ***DEVOURED*** BY COSMIC SUPER-PREDATORS?

ICKTO. HALFWAY BETWEEN ***TICK*** AND ***TOCK,*** YOU SEE?

A PLACE ABANDONED BY TIME.

...Hhhh. ALONG WITH ***HOPE,*** I'M SORRY TO SAY.

DON'T ***LOOK,*** MY BOY. ALL WILL BE WELL. EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING.

I'M SO VERY PROUD OF YOU.

KA-BOOM

PSHEW

PSHEW

PSHEW

They--

--THEY WON'T **DIE,** STRATEGOS!

THAT'S NOT IN THE **BRIEF,** TROOPER! JUST HOLD THEM BACK! **THUNDER** AND **MATH!**

HEW

EXTRACTION TEAM--

GET TO IT!

Who are y--

COUNT YOUR LUCKY STARS, FELLAS...

THE **LINEAR MEN** HAVE YOU NOW.

Don't say it.

Don't say it. Don't say it.

THE UNIVERSE PROVIDES.

IT DOESN'T MAKE **SENSE.**

ONE MINUTE I'M MAPPING THE MULTIVERSE, THE NEXT I'M WAKING UP IN **ALASKA** DRIPPING EXOTIC ENERGY AND COVERED IN **BLOOD.**

*Someone **else's** blood.*

A-AND NOW YOU SAY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN WALLY IN **THREE DAYS?**

LINDA, WHAT THE HELL IS **GOING ON?**

Hm?

Oh, BARRY. You're still here.

AREN'T YOU **LISTENING?** I THINK SOMETHING **TERRIBLE'S** HAPPENED TO YOUR HUSBAND! **WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?**

Hhhmm.

I... I HAVE ALL THESE-- **GAPS.**

AND... **DARK THOUGHTS** THAT DON'T FEEL LIKE **MINE.** WH-WHAT IF I **DID** SOMETHING TO H--

*Ssshhh. He'll be **fine.** Didn't you know?*

*He's a **super-hero.***

...

LINDA, I THINK SOMETHING'S MESSING WITH OUR MINDS. AND THERE ARE ***DISASTERS*** ALL OVER THE WORLD. IT'S AS IF--

Well, ***EXACTLY.*** IT'S A QUESTION OF ***PRIORITIES,*** ISN'T IT?

IREY'S STILL ***TRAUMATIZED*** AFTER THAT-- whatever it was. AT THE ***SCHOOL.***

JAI'S KEEPING SECRETS. WADE NEEDS FEEDING, CLEANING, PUTTING DOWN.

ALL THESE ***FRAGILE HEARTS*** TO NURTURE... AND ***I'M*** SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING.

WE CAN'T ***ALL*** FOCUS ON THE ***EPIC,*** BARRY.

Busy busy busy.

Hm? Oh, BARRY-- ARE YOU STILL HERE? ***DO*** STOP WORRYING.

WALLY HAS HIS ***ADVENTURES.*** THE REST OF US SIT BY AND WAIT TO GET ***SAVED.*** THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

BESIDES.

I hear the ***pipes*** so much clearer when he's not here...

:A-hrm: ***LINDA?***

Pipes...?

SO, uh. I KNOW THIS IS A **WEIRD** THING TO SAY IN A **POCKET REALITY** FORMED OF LOOPED TEMPORAL WAVES--

--WHERE EVEN THE **ILLUSION** OF TIME PASSING IS THE PRODUCT OF **FAKE CAUSALITY** PRODUCED BY OUR DOMESTICATED **DIMENSIONAL WEAVERS**--

--BUT still...

...SORRY TO KEEP YOU **WAITIN'**.

I GOT **COFFEE.**

INSPECTOR PILGRIM, LINEAR BUREAU INVESTIGATION DIVISION.

WHAT THE HELL'S A **LINEAR BUREAU?**

Ah, WE-ELL-- YOU GOT **TWO OPTIONS** THERE. Walk with me.

OPTION ONE IS WHERE I GET A **TAME COSMIC SPIDER** TO PUMP, *like,* **THREE THOUSAND HOURS** OF **PARADOXICAL MATH** INTO YOUR HEAD--

--SO YOU CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND AN ATEMPORAL ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF A STOCHASTIC UNIVERSE--

Oooh, THAT SOUNDS **AWESOME.** LET'S DO **THAT!**

--OORRRRR, OPTION TWO, WE ROLL WITH "TIMECOPS" AND HAVE A DONUT.

OMG, DONUTS!

EXCUSE IMPULSE. HE'S, *uhm*...

BRILLIANT-- I KNOW. I'M ACTUALLY A FAN. OF BOTH OF YOU. This is weird for me.

Wuuhd-fuhyuh?

BLACK HOLE DONUTS

SEE, MY THING IS, I CAN SLIDE UP AND DOWN THE TIMELINE OF MY OWN LIFE. SORT OF...

...A SPEEDSTER IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION.

THAT SOUNDS... COMPLICATED.

IT USED TO BE. USED TO BE I COULD VISIT ANYWHERE I LIKED UP TO ABOUT TWO HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW--

--a peaceful death holding my lover's hands. It's kinda beautiful--

--BUT NOW?

FROM THE MOMENT YOU GUYS LEFT EARTH, THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ARE FULL OF TIMEQUAKES, DIMENSIONAL BREAKAGES, REALITY TEARS...

...THE LAWS OF PHYSICS ARE CRUMBLING. I CAN'T TRAVEL MORE THAN A COUPLE MONTHS FORWARD.

DEEP CHANGE MONITORING DIVISION

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

I'M SAYING SOMETHING'S *MURDERED* THE *FUTURE.*

THAT'S--

Thaff *fftupid.*

Oh?

=Nk=

CLAFFIC ***BAD SHI-FI LOGIC,*** RIGHT?

=Ulp=

IF SOMETHING ***CHANGES*** THE TIMELINE, IT DOESN'T ***SUDDENLY*** HAPPEN-- PHOTOS FADING OUT AND ALL THAT CRAP. THERE'S NO SECOND LAYER OF TIME TO DECIDE ***WHEN*** THE CHANGE COMES INTO EFFECT.

IT'S JUST-- ***ALWAYS*** BEEN CHANGED.

Hm. Smart lad.

PERSPECTIVE, BART. THAT'S THE MISSING INGREDIENT.

AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL, OUTCOMES ARE CONTINGENT ON OBSERVATIONS. THE STORY'S DEFINED BY ITS AUDIENCE.

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE? I WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL BACKWARD FROM THE FUTURE TO OBSERVE MYSELF AS A BABY--

--BUT WHEN I TRIED TO SLIDE BACK THE OTHER WAY?

I ran out of time.

LUCKILY THE BUREAU WAS ABLE TO SCOOP ME UP IN THE FEMTOSECOND BEFORE I WAS LOST TO--

--y'know.

AN ENDLESS VOID OF ENTROPIC SUCK.

THE UNIVERSE PROVIDES.

Mm. UNFORTUNATELY, WHAT THE UNIVERSE IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING IS THE COLLAPSE OF THE LOWER PLANES AND A PLAGUE OF COSMIC SCAVENGERS.

TIME-POINT.

THERE'S THIS-- SANCTUARY-- AT THE HEART OF THE SPEED FORCE. LIKE CAMELOT FOR SPEEDSTERS, y'know? I BET THOSE GUYS WILL KNOW HOW TO STOP THIS.

I'M SORRY, BART. TIMEPOINT IS GONE.

WHERE DO YOU THINK WE FOUND YOU?

You're saying... YOU'RE SAYING ICKTO IS... ICKTO WAS--

Mmhm. THE SPEED FORCE IS FALLING APART. AND REALITY WITH IT.

THE ONLY SMART QUESTION THAT REMAINS IS--

Who's doing this...?

YOU DID THIS! ADMIT IT, YOU RECIDIVIST £$%&!

AAAAAAH! J-J-STOP!

FLASH, PLEASE, I-- AAAAAAA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *TALKING* ABOUT! I'VE BEEN CLEAN FOR *YEARS!*

LIAR! HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION, MISSING MEMORIES, MUSICAL MESMERISM-- ONLY THE *PIED PIPER* FITS THE RAP!

WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO ME?

BARRY.

TO LINDA?! TO WALLY?!

BARRY!

CALM.

THE #@%£.

DOWN.

Y... you have... *anti-speedster tech...?*

SEEMS THAT WAY. UNEXPECTED BONUS OF AN ***ARTIFACT*** WE RECENTLY ACQUIRED.

Oooh, THE GOOPY EXTRADIMENSIONAL ***TENTACLE!***

YOU KNOW, BARRY, I'VE BEEN STUDYING ITS ***EMANATIONS.*** IT'S LIKE-- ***INFINITE REGRESSION,*** EXCEPT IN A CELLULAR STRU--

SUFFICE TO SAY, MR. RATHAWAY WORKS FOR ME. IN FACT, SOME OF YOUR ***MULTIVERSE MAPPING*** WORK HAS RELIED ON HIS ***WAVE DYNAMIC*** MODELS.

IF HE HAD RELAPSED INTO VILLAINY, BARRY--

--I ***WOULD KNOW.***

THAT'S ***RI--*** Wait.

D-DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE BEEN ***MONITORING*** ME?

HARTLEY, MY FRIEND-- I MONITOR ***EVERY-THING.***

Hmp. THEN ***THIS ONE*** SHOULD BE A CINCH--

--WHERE THE HELL IS **WALLY?**

Ah.

THERE, I'M AFRAID, YOU'VE **GOT** ME.

Hhh.

YOU SHOULD KNOW... WALLY RECENTLY GAINED THE ABILITY TO... **SHIFT** BETWEEN LAYERS OF EXISTENCE.

What?

GENERALLY WE CAN CHART HIS PROGRESS THROUGH THE COSMOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS BASED ON HIS **INTERFERENCE PATTERNS.**

I call it the ***SpectraVerse!*** There are either ten, eleven, or twenty-six discrete frequencies-- we haven't decided yet.

BUT... EVER SINCE YOU AND HE ASCENDED INTO THE SPEED FORCE...

Why didn't he tell me?

ABOUT THE NEW POWERS? HE'S BARELY TOLD **ANYONE.** OFFICIALLY EVEN **I** DON'T KNOW--

--BUT... *well.*

"--I HAVE ***EXCELLENT*** SOURCES."

INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN SHARED. STRATEGIES COMPOSED. BARELY TOLERABLE COFFEE BREWED AND DRUNK. AND, *uh.*

Difficult decisions made. SEE FOR YOURSELVES.

...Wh...

...WHO ARE THEY?

Oh, SPEEDSTERS. CHRONONAUTS. THAT SPITFIRE IN ***BLUE*** IS ***GOLD BEETLE***-- THE ONE BART WAS LOOKING FOR.

SHE WANTED TO STAY AND FIGHT IN TIMEPOINT WHEN IT WAS ONLY HALFWAY TO HELL. We had to ***black-bag*** her just to get clear.

THIS IS ANYONE WITH AN ACTIVE RELATIONSHIP TO THE ***[DEEP-CHANGE].***

The ***what now?***

He means the ***Speed Force...***

ARE THEY DEAD?

NO, NO--JUST... ***EXTRATEMPORAL.*** I'VE LOBBIED HARD TO AVOID ANYTHING MORE...***TERMINAL.*** And not ***just*** because GB's kinda ***family.***

THEN WHY? WHY ***SHOW*** US THIS? WHY ***DO*** THIS?

Ah. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE'RE... ACTING ON A ***TIP.***

"IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE THE BUREAU SAVED ME FROM THAT EMPTY FUTURE, I RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

"A BURST OF ***DATA*** FROM AN INTELLIGENCE SO FAR ABOVE SENTIENCE THAT...*well*... THERE ARE NO WORDS.

"BEST I CAN DESCRIBE 'EM IS--*ohhh*-- ***CONSCIOUS HYPERGEOMETRIES.*** COSMOLOGICAL ABSTRACTIONS SO COMPLEX THAT THEY BECOME IRREDUCIBLY ***SIMPLE.***

"BEINGS THAT EXIST ON THE CURVE WHERE ***INFINITY*** OVERLAPS WITH ***ZERO.***

IN ***THIS*** TRADE, FOLKS TEND TO JUST CALL 'EM THE ***ARC ANGLES.***

Well. WE CRUNCHED THEIR NUMBERS. RAN THE SCENARIOS. IT ALL CHECKS OUT. I'M SORRY TO BE THE BEARER OF SUCKY NEWS, GUYS, BUT...

...REALITY'S CRUMBLING BECAUSE ***SPEED-STERS*** KEEP USING THEIR POWERS.

*Wh-**WHAT?*** NO. THAT'S ***RIDICULOUS.*** WE ARE THE ***BREATH*** OF THE UNIVERSE.

Ah. I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU ***RESCUED*** US.

YOU WANT US TO PROVIDE A NEW ***PERSPECTIVE*** ON THE PROBL--

MAX! FOR PITY'S SAKE! STOP THINKING SO DAMN ***POSITIVELY!***

IT WASN'T A ***RESCUE!***

"IT WAS AN ARREST!"

AFRAID HE'S **RIGHT.** I'M SORRY-- I REALLY AM. I JUST...

...FIGURED YOU DESERVED AN **EXPLANATION.**

CHRONON DRAIN IN THE Z-T ROOM, PLEASE.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO FIX THIS WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE.

MADE CONTACT WITH A **SHAPER,** EVEN-- THAT'S A **HIGH VALUE ASSET,** REAL RARE.

I'M HOPEFUL HE CAAAAAAAA~

SHAPE THIS, COPPER!

SMAK

=Siiigh=

SEND IN THE **WIDOWS,** PLEASE.

Look, I DON'T *EXPECT* GRATITUDE, BUT-- you oughta know. IF WE DID IT THE WAY THE *ARC ANGLES* SAID, YOU'D BE *DUST* BY NOW. I COULD'VE LEFT YOU TO THE UNCOILED.

IF THERE'S A WAY TO SAVE *REALITY* WITHOUT, y'know, MURDERING EVERY SPEEDSTER THERE *IS?*

I PROMISE I'LL FIND IT.

UNTIL THEN... I GUESS WE JUST GOTTA HAVE FAITH...

...THE UNIVERSE PROVIDES.

AAAAAHHH

BE STILL, WALLY. YOU ARE SAFE.

YOU ARE IN THE GALLERY.

THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED, BUT... THE BLADE IS OF EXOTIC MATERIAL. IT REMAINS ENTANGLED WITH YOU IN WAYS I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

THE WOUND REOPENS AT THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH.

Wh... wh...

PLEASE--LIE BACK. WHY WON'T YOU LIE B--

WH-WH-WHAT IS THAT?!

Ah. Yes.

IT APPEARED THE VERY MOMENT YOU BEGAN TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.

I HAVE AN INKLING, WALLY-- though I cannot tell how I know this-- THAT IT'S AN ATTEMPT BY YOUR HUMAN MIND TO PERCEIVE AN UNIMAGINABLE BEING.

I BELIEVE IT IS AN ARC ANGLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WE ARE LEGENDS

千古傳奇 우린 전설이다 私たちは伝説だ हम है सिकंदर

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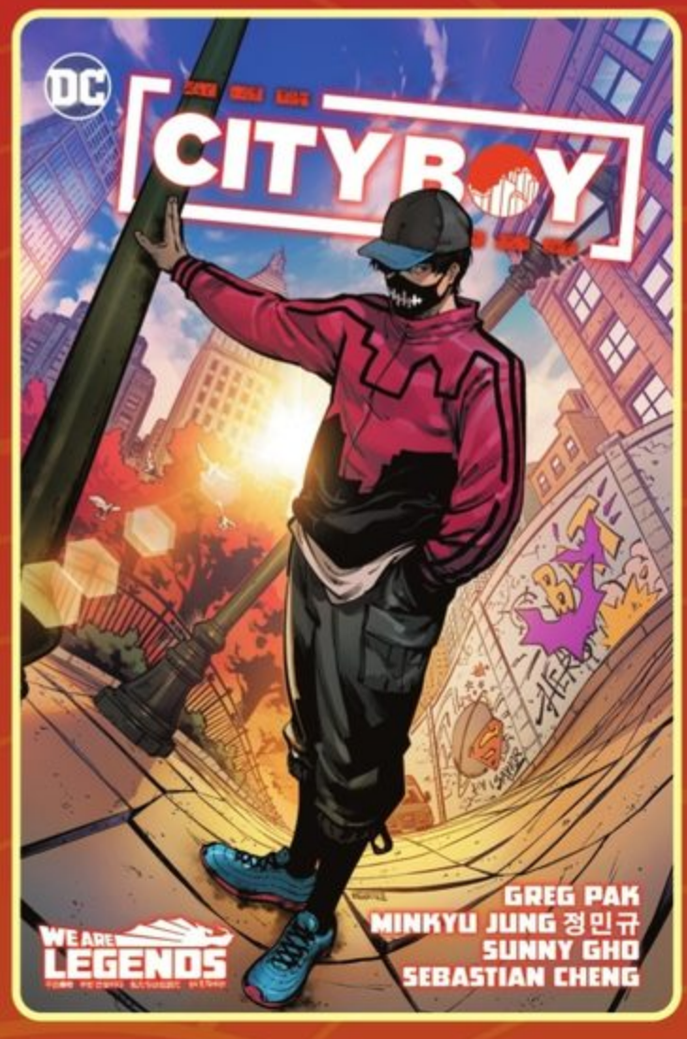
HAS ARRIVED!

SPIRIT WORLD

Writer: ALYSSA WONG 王秀莲

Artist: HAINING 海凝



CITY BOY

Writer: GREG PAK

Artist: MINKYU JUNG 정민규

THE VIGIL

Writer: RAM V

Artists: LALIT KUMAR SHARMA & DEVMALYA PRAMANIK

LEGENDARY COLLECTED EDITIONS AVAILABLE IN APRIL!

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

THE NEXT PHASE OF THE DC UNIVERSE BEGINS WITH AN ALL-OUT INVASION OF METROPOLIS!

APRIL

- Part 1: *Action Comics* #1064
  - Tie-In: *Green Lantern* #10
- Part 2: *Superman* #13
  - Tie-In: *Power Girl* #8
- Part 2.5: *Superman: House of Brainiac Special*

MAY

- Part 3: *Action Comics* #1065
  - Tie-In: *Green Lantern* #11
- Part 4: *Superman* #14
  - Tie-In: *Power Girl* #9

JUNE

- Part 5: *Action Comics* #1066
  - Tie-In: *Green Lantern* #12
  - Tie-In: *Power Girl* #10
- Part 6: *Superman* #15

SUPERMAN: HOUSE OF BRAINIAC SPECIAL
MAIN COVER BY JAMAL CAMPBELL

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